FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 MAY 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Over 300 Iraqi soldiers were killed and 15 vehicles were destroyed during Iranian counterattacks in the Mehran sector 19-20 May, the Iranian Joint Staff claimed in a communique reported by IRNA. Iran also downed two Iraqi helicopters in Mehran and Iranian planes raided Iraqi positions in the same sector 20-21 May, according to reports cited by the agency. For Iraq's part, a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio asserted that the "major" part of an Iranian force approaching heights controlled by Iraq was wiped out and the remainder forced to flee.

In continuing fighting in the northern Hajj 'Umran area, a military report cited by Tehran radio claimed that Iraq sustained over 1,200 casualties and the loss of 23 tanks and personnel carriers and a helicopter in fighting 18-19 May. On the other hand, the Iraqi communique reported that Iraq foiled two Iranian counterattacks and inflicted "massive" losses on the Iranians. The communique also reported 105 Iranian dead in a separate clash in the same sector.

In action in the Faqqeh area, IRNA reported that Iraqi forces were "forced" to retreat 8 km during an Iranian assault in which "numerous" Iraqis were killed or wounded. As for the southern Al-Faw sector, hundreds of Iraqis were killed when Iran opened "intense" fire on Iraqi positions, according to a military statement reported by Tehran radio.

Iran-France

A delegation headed by Iranian Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri arrived in Paris on 3-day official visit, IRNA reported, noting that it is the first official visit by a "high-ranking" Iranian official to France since the Iranian revolution. The agency revealed that Mo'ayeri will meet with the French president, prime minister, and external relations minister.

Israel-Syria

Commenting on reports that Syria will receive SS-23's, Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres stated in remarks broadcast by IDF radio that Israel's problem with Syria is "not one type of weapon" but rather is the latter's general deployment and policy. Peres said he believes Israel will find a solution to each type of weapon acquired by the Syrians and he reaffirmed that Israel is trying to dissipate the tension. The SS-23's delivered to Syria may be equipped with chemical warheads, according to IDF radio. Meanwhile, Israeli Chief of Staff Major General Moshe Levi warned that the Syrian forces in Lebanon are constantly preparing for war against Israel, adding that the IDF "must supply an answer" to the Syrian deployment, according to Jerusalem radio.

On the Arab side, the UAE daily *AL-ITTIHAD* reported that the Soviet Union has warned the United States against undertaking any military moves against Syria, KUNA noted. Citing sources close to Syria, the paper said the USSR told the United States that if Syria is subjected to an Israeli or U.S. attack, the Soviet Union will not adopt a similar stance to that taken when the United States raided Libya. In a separate development, the *MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY disclosed that Iran* has substantially reduced its oil supplies to Syria because the latter owes Iran around $1.5 billion for oil purchases, according to KUNA.

PLO-Lebanon

A PLO statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio accused "gangs affiliated with some sides in the Amal Movement" of attacking the Burj al-Barajinah camp in Beirut 19 May, claiming that Amal militiamen opened "intensive and indiscriminate" fire on the camp, killing children, women, and old people.

Saudi Arabia

The Saudi Government's decision to withdraw its request for Stinger missiles was reported by SPA, which cited the statement by the Saudi ambassador to Washington that the Kingdom is in greater need of air-to-air and anti-ship missiles.

DRA

Security forces killed 278 "counterrevolutionaries" and captured 76 others in the northern province of Badakhshan, according to BAKHTAR.

Soviet Mideast Diplomacy

Reporting on Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's talks with visiting Soviet official Konstantin Katushev in Baghdad, TASS said the two sides called for further strengthening bilateral relations. In Damascus, senior Syrian defense officials held talks with a Soviet military delegation headed by Lieutenant General Aleksey Dimitriy Lizichev, according to a SANA report cited by KUNA.

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Najibullah Addresses Army Party Organizations
LD191812 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 19 May 86

[Excerpt] Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, this morning took part in the work of the second session of the nation-wide conference of secretaries of primary party organizations of the DRA Army and shed light on the fundamental aspects of the activity of Army political workers.

Comrade Najibullah went to the Ministry of Defense at 1000 and was welcomed by Major General Nazar Muhammad, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and the minister of defense; Major General Muhammad Yasin Sadeqi, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, and head of Army political affairs; and the leadership of the Defense Ministry.

After inspecting the guard of honor, Comrade Najibullah took part in a meeting of secretaries of primary organizations of the Army and in an instructive speech drew the attention of the Army to their important tasks. In a part of his speech to the participants in the meeting he said:

[Begin Najibullah recording] [Words indistinct] The ability of good behavior, broad-mindedness, and sincerity toward the people are the approaches which your troops expect of you. By your example, you should train the troops to be modest, loyal in friendship, honorable in their sense of duty, capable of self-criticism and justice, and to refrain from self-interest and give up tribal, family, and other interests for the victory of the cause of the people. A political worker must be an example in combat and combat readiness. You should first of all be exemplary soldiers and then political workers and officers. The sense of respect for the troops comes about step by step. Attention to one's weapons, courage in combat, organizational capability, and an understanding of logistics at times of mobilization -- all these matters are (?elements) of the military profession which you should have at the tips of your fingers. [end recording]

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that Maj Gen Muhammad Yasin Sadeqi then thanked Comrade Najibullah for his important and instructive statement and promised that the political workers of the DRA Army, under the leadership of the PDPA, will carry out their revolutionary tasks by making every kind of sacrifices.

Najibullah Receives Provincial Representatives
LD210623 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 20, BAKHTAR — Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA CC, received president and members of the Central Council of the High Jirga of Tribes as well as the elders and representatives of the provinces of Qandahar, Paktia and Paktika. They assured Comrade Najibullah of their firm resolve for defending the gains of the April Revolution and playing their role in the construction of a new Afghan society.

Talking to the audience, general secretary of the PDPA CC said that the party and state of the DRA are faced with grave tasks and are determined to achieve these tasks with the active participation of all tribes and nationalities.

The undeclared war which has been imposed upon the DRA by imperialism and reaction is aimed at fratricide. We should look, Comrade Najibullah continued to say, into the cause of the bloodshed and take urgent steps for ending it.

We have, Comrade Najibullah stressed, explicitly declared that the DRA is prepared for a national reconciliation, enabling all of our countrymen, who are living abroad due to several reasons, to return to their homeland and to resume their normal life.

Comrade Najibullah called upon the various ethnic groups, tribes and nationalities to mobilize around their revolutionary state and to give their views for the maintenance of peace and security in the country.

Haji Muhammed Samkani, deputy president of the Revolutionary Council and chairman of the Central Council of the High Jirga of tribes and some elders of the provinces of Qandahar, Paktia and Paktika in their speeches assured Comrade Najibullah of their all-sided cooperation in rebuffing the conspiracies of the enemies.

Najibullah Thanks Public for Congratulations
LD200918 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 19, BAKHTAR: Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA CC, has conveyed his heartfelt thanks to all party organs, social organisations, collectives of workers, organs of the armed forces, the tribes and to all the Afghan people for their congratulatory messages sent to him on his election as general secretary of the PDPA CC. He has also expressed his gratitude to the brother parties and international progressive organisations for their greeting messages on the same subject.

"The sincere words and the firm readiness shown in their messages for the realisation of the goals of the April Revolution have given me new impetus in carrying out my grave responsibilities" stressed Comrade Najibullah in his message.

The comprehensive support of the people to the decisions of the 18th plenum of the PDPA CC enriched once again the unshakeable [words indistinct] of the PDPA. The encouraging [words indistinct] of the brother parties and progressive organisations demonstrated once again the international prestige of the PDPA and is an exponent of the great force of proletarian internationalism.

Comrade Najibullah in his message has once again given his firm commitment to devote all his energy for the fulfillment of the final victory of the April Revolution, ensuring unity in the party ranks, consolidation of the armed forces of the DRA and the ever further strengthening of friendship with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

Deputy Minister Links National, Regional, World Peace

LD200922 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 19, BAKHTAR — The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan as always is convinced that struggle for the maintaining of national peace is inseparable from the struggle for world peace and the maintainance of regional and international security, said Tawab Zakaii deputy foreign minister of the DRA in an interview to the correspondent of *HAQIQAT-E ENQALAB-E SAWR*.

Zakaii said "we are looking with serious concern [at] the worsening of international situation and the seriousness of arms race which is always broadened by the imperialism war instigators at the head of U.S. imperialism threatening the existence of the humankind." [sentence as received]

The DRA, he said, supports those who struggle for their legitimate rights. "We support peaceful initiatives and proposals of the USSR as the only logical alternative for the preserving of world peace." The deputy foreign minister said.

Zawaii went on to say, the readiness of the Soviet Union for fruitful and positive negotiations, unilateral extension of moratorium of nuclear tests and its proposals in regards to make this decision permanent "if the other side express its full responsibility as well", the tripartite negotiations between the USSR, the USA and the UK on the complete banning of nuclear tests, in the atmosphere, outer space, under water and under the ground which was proposed by non-aligned countries are of vital importance. The USSR (?asks) the western countries to encounter with logic to these proposals reflecting the wishes and aspirations of all people and the peaceful and progressive forces of the world. Struggle for a durable world peace is not an easy task. But victory is a must.

The deputy foreign minister said that for the sake of peace and prevention of a war, especially a nuclear war, the basic voices of millions of people should transform to a specific and targetful material power, Tawab Zakuii deputy foreign minister of the DRA concluded.

Security Forces 'Crush' 278 Rebels

LD191339 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 19 May 86

[Text] Kabul, 19 May (BAKHTAR) — As a result of successful operations by the country's security forces in the district of Baharak, Badakhshan Province, 278 counterrevolutionary elements, including four of their ringleaders, were crushed, and 76 persons, including two of their ringleaders were captured.

The country's security forces seized from these criminals 12 DShK's, six mortars, a ZK-1, six rocket launchers, three recoiless guns, 303 assorted weapons, 57 guns, 119 [words indistinct], 500 rounds of ZK-1's, nine [words indistinct], and a number of anti-state propaganda documents.

Further Details

LD210628 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 20, BAKHTAR — Two hundred and seventy-eight counterrevolutionary elements with their four ringleaders were eliminated and seventy-six bandits, including their two ringleaders, were captured as a result of successful operation carried out by the security forces in the suburbs of Baharak District of Badakhshan Province (north of the country).

A large quantity of arms and ammunition including rocket launchers, missiles and recoilless guns, some incriminating documents, anti-government propaganda leaflets and communication equipment, were captured by the security forces from the bandits.

Spokesman Views UK Sikh Trial Testimony

BK201516 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1432 GMT 20 May 86

["Briefing by Official Spokesman on 20th May, 1986"]

[Text] In response to questions relating to press reports regarding to prime minister's U.K. tour itinerary leaked from the Indian mission in London, the official spokesman said "we have seen press reports regarding the commital proceedings of four alleged terrorists who were arrested on charges of plotting to kill the prime minister during his visit to U.K. in October last year. We are awaiting the details of the court proceedings from our high commission in London.

Some press reports of these commital proceedings have indicated that in his testimony a British undercover agent had stated that one of the accused informed him that he had received classified information pertaining to the intinerary of the prime minister from a contact inside the Indian High Commission [HCI].

The government of India was at no stage informed by the British authorities that such information had been provided to an alleged terrorist from within the H.C.I. London. If these reports about the testimony of the British undercover agent are accurate, then we find it surprising that the British Government had not furnished it to us immediately and that these details should have emerged in public in court proceedings about seven months later.

Rioting in Aurangabad Prompts Prohibitary Orders

BK201639 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] In Maharashtra, prohibatory orders under Section 144 [banning asembly of five or more persons] were promulgated in various parts of Aurangabad town today following incidents of arson, stone throwing, and stabbing. According to the police, two persons were injured in group clashes and another two in stabbing incidents. Miscreants tried to damage some shops and vehicles, but police foiled their attempts. The situation in the town is now under control and no untoward incident has been reported since this afternoon. The collector of Aurangabad told newsmen that 10 persons sustained injuries in group clashes; 45 antisocial elements have been arrested.

The state minister of planning, Mr Vijaysinh Prabhugakar, visited the riot affected areas and also visited the hospital to see the injured who are undergoing treatment. Those who sustained injuries are out of danger. The situation is under control and is returning to normalcy.

Pakistani Group Arrives for Talks on Rail Link

BK200424 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] A Pakistani delegation has arrived New Delhi for talks with the Indian authorities on reopening the Khokhropar way on the India-Pakistan border.

The talks between the railway officials of the two countries will begin today.

INDIAN EXPRESS on Union Carbide Case Jurisdiction

BK201640 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 15 May 86 p 6

[Editorial: "Back to India"]

[Text] Predictably, the American court which was to decide the issue of jurisdiction in the Union Carbide case, has ruled that it should be heard in India rather than in the U.S. as India had pleaded. While doing so, however, the judge has imposed certain conditions which the Indian Government believes will work to the plaintiff's advantage. These are, first, that in deciding on compensation, the global assets of Union Carbide Corporation will be taken into account and not just that of the Indian subsidiary. Secondly, the documents of the parent company and its subsidiaries will be made available for examination during the hearings. Thirdly, the verdict will be binding on Carbide in the U.S.

Taken together these conditions will seriously circumscribe the Company's room for manoeuvre and make it more amenable to a fair out of court settlement for something like $650-700 million which is the kind of figure that the Indian Government might be willing to accept. Carbide's earlier offer was $350 million.

Matters could be delayed by an appeal against Judge Keenan's verdict in New York either by Carbide or by the lawyers appearing privately for Bhopal victims in the hope of getting a generous percentage of the amount awarded as damages as commission.

Meanwhile, steps should be initiated to set up a special court or bench that could hear and dispose of the matter expeditiously. Already too much time has been lost. It is ironic that the Government should have sought a hearing of the case in the U.S. because of the inadequacy of Indian laws and the dilatory nature of its court procedures, and that the suit is being repatriated to this country by an American judge who extolls India's judicial tradition and independence and says that it would be unbecoming of the U.S. to practise judicial 'imperialism' by hearing the matter!

Indirect Afghan Talks Resume in Geneva 19 May

BK191726 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 19 May 86

[Text] The seventh round of indirect proximity talks on Afghanistan between Pakistan and the Kabul regime resumed in Geneva today. UN sources said that the special representative of the UN secretary general on Afghanistan, Mr Cordovez, is meeting the Kabul regime's foreign minister, Mr Shah Mohammad Dost. Later, he is due to meet the Pakistani foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan. The two sides had decided to extend the talks to the third week in view of insignificant progress in the first 2 weeks. ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN says the special representative of the UN secretary general on Afghanistan is expected to propose a discussion on the key question of a time frame for the withdrawal of Soviet troops simultaneously with the ongoing negotiations on the principles delineated in the draft of the fourth instrument of the proposed package of settlement.

Agenda Detailed

BK210551 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] The seventh round of indirect talks on Afghanistan continued in Geneva yesterday. APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN] says existing differences in the viewpoints of the parties on some key elements of the fourth instrument of the proposed overall settlement on the future of Afghanistan were the topics of yesterday's intensive discussion. These differences are over legal provisions in the proposed settlement and over the formulation of a procedure for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. The news agency says that after entering the third week, the indirect talks are proceeding more actively. Quoting informed sources in Geneva, APP says Pakistan and the Soviet-backed administration in Kabul have agreed on those principles that are recognized as the preamble of the fourth instrument. The fourth instrument deals with the vital point of interrelating the coordinated overall settlement and the simultaneous implementation of the various parts of the proposed agreement. The last two points on which there was much previous difficulty have been considered to be the important area of progress in the seventh round of indirect talks.

PRC's Fu Hao, Delegation Arrive in Islamabad

BK200529 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 19 May 86

[Text] A 7-member Chinese delegation led by the vice chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress, Mr Fu Hao, arrived in Islamabad this evening on a week's visit to Pakistan to participate in the 35th anniversary celebration of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The anniversary celebrations begin on Wednesday both in Pakistan and China. Talking to newsmen at the airport, he said Pakistan and China had always supported each other and would continue to do so in future. The two countries, he said, were bound by a shared history, and they were cooperating in a number of fields to their mutual benefit. Mr Fu Hao said Pakistan was the first to recognize China after its independence and since then friendly cooperation between the two countries had been on the increase. He said before their departure from Beijing they met the Pakistan delegation which had arrived yesterday to convey love and affection of the people of Pakistan for the people of China. He said they had come to Pakistan to reciprocate these sentiments and wanted to convey warm greetings to the people of Pakistan.

About the increasing air violations by Afghanistan of Pakistan's air space and the downing of Afghan aircraft by Pakistan, he said Pakistan had every right to take measures to defend its security and peaceful life of its people.

The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, who received the Chinese delegation at the airport, said both Pakistan and China valued their friendship for a number of reasons. He said Pakistan particularly appreciates its friendship with China because it has always stood by Pakistan both in good and difficult times.

Zia, Junejo Greet Chinese Counterparts

BK201651 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] The 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Pakistan and China is being observed tomorrow. President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo have congratulated Chinese President Li Xiannian and Premier Zhao Ziyang on this occasion.

In his message, the president said that Paksitan-China friendship is considered to be an example of friendship and good-neighborly relations between states and this is an important factor for the maintenance of peace and stability in the region. He expressed confidence that relations between the two countries, which fully conform to the aspirations of the two peoples, will grow stronger with the passage of time. The president said bilateral relations have become stronger despite ups and downs in regional and global politics because these ties are based on the principles of peaceful coexistence. The president acknowledged and appreciated the manner in which China has consistently provided generous assistance to Pakistan in political and economic fields in a spirit of solidarity with Third World countries, despite its own difficulties. The president admitted that China's generosity has helped Pakistan in its march toward self-sufficiency. The people of Pakistan will always cherish the valuable assistance provided by the people and the government of China to Pakistan at critical juncture of their history. The president referred to the opening of the highway between China and Pakistan for the rest of the world and said that thousands of tourists, who will travel on the new silk highway, will themselves observe the special ties binding the two countries.

The prime minister said in his message that relations between China and Pakistan are unique and remarkable because of their sincerity, mutual confidence and respect, and identical viewpoints on global issues. China's opposition to regional and global

hegemonism and its association with the Third World is a source of great strength for Pakistan. The prime minister said Sino-Pakistan relations constitute an important factor for the maintenance of regional and global peace and stability. He expressed confidence that the constantly growing relationship between the two countries will be further strengthened in the future. He thanked China for its assistance which has won the hearts of the Pakistani people.

The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, has also sent a congratulatory message to his Chinese counterpart, Wu Xueqian.

The celebrations marking the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties will include seminars and symposia at which speakers will throw light on the close relationship between Pakistan and China. A Pakistani delegation is now in China, and a Chinese delegation has come to Pakistan to participate in these celebrations.

THE MUSLIM Views Ouster of Assembly Speaker

GF201124 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 May 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Speaker Under Siege"]

[Text] The reported move to unseat the Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Fakhar Imam, is whimsical and shows a cavalier disregard for democratic norms. The Speaker is being pilloried for not acting like a mere rubber-stamp. In fact, Fakhar Imam's independence and his unwillingness to submit to official diktat has contributed to giving the National Assembly some semblance of credibility despite the circumscribed nature of the polls and the supposed "partyless" affiliation of the contestants for the National Assembly.

Fakhar has been seen as a pain in the neck by the Government ever since he became the speaker by defeating a formidable rival backed by it. Against odds, he continued to maintain a posture of independence. The speaker's immediate sin is obviously the reference before the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) challenging the validity of Mr Junejo's membership of the Assembly following his acceptance of office of President of an unregistered political party — the new-fangled Muslim League.

In this connection the Government seems poised to introduce a vote of no-confidence to oust the Speaker. The logic here is of brute majority in the Parliament. It is also buoyed by a Presidential Ordinance enacted on May 13 which ex post facto permits sitting members of Parliament to be members of a political party. The aim of this Ordinance is to shield Junejo from the consequences of the Speaker's reference before the CEC. Its juridical fragility is however, transparent. It remains to be seen whether the CEC rises to the occasion and weighs the Speaker's reference uninfluenced by the apparent political ploy of the Ordinance.

These moves are a violation of the regime's own rules of the game created by it for its own convenience and preservation. The regime, undergirded by arbitrary fiat, has by its own public admissions often viewed the above-mentioned manoeuverings as a game. The dangers of gamesmanship are that at some point it lends itself to the virtual exhaustion of the bag of tricks.

BANGLADESH

AFP: Santi Bahini Insurgents Raid Villages

BK210640 Hong Kong AFP in English 0629 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] Dhaka, May 21 (AFP) — Raids by outlawed tribal insurgents in Bangladesh's southeastern Chittagong hill tracts left at least eight people dead and up to 20 wounded, press reports said Wednesday. The Dhaka daily *NEW NATION* quoting "competent sources" in Chittagong said "Santi Bahini" insurgents had raided the Boalkhali settlement zone in Khagrachari District Sunday as villagers slept.

SRI LANKA

Athulathmudli: Terrorists Will Not Achieve Goals

BK201151 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, has said that the terrorists will never be permitted to make their dream of Eelam [a Tamil separate state] a reality. He said there could be temporary setbacks in the fight against terrorism. However, he raised the question as to why those who only talk about the defeat never say a word about the victory. The minister was speaking at a public rally after he inaugurated two electricity schemes at Katupota in Valovla and at Simboladaskotua in Kuliyapitiya.

Speaking further, the minister said that if the people are alert, this would be of great assistance in solving the terrorist problem. He added that if the Tamil people follow the examples of the Muslims and Sinhalese, who live in peace with each other, there would be no basis for terrorism.

Parliament Discusses Government Action on Terrorists

BK201149 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] The proposal for the extension of the state of emergency by a further month was taken up for discussion in the parliament this morning. Minister Vincent Perara expressing his views on the extension said that a large number of terrorists had been killed because of rivalry amongst them. A number of civilians had also been killed, but the exact number of the dead was not known so far.

The minister said that 89 incidents of violence were reported from the north and east during the past month. There were 43 from Jaffna, 10 from Vavuniya, 13 from Batticaloa and 23 from Trincomalee.

Mr Perara said that this is a clear evidence that the terrorists believe that violence was necessary to achieve their goals. However, the government had taken all possible steps to ensure peace and harmony in the country. The Armed Forces had been put on alert. Therefore, the extension of the state of emergency was necessary.

The member for Attanagalla, Lakshman Jayakody, said that the government should try to normalize relations with India. He said that there could be a change in the situation in Sri Lanka when India quits from the chairmanship of the Nonaligned Movement. However, the member said that he fully endorsed the government's move to destroy all terrorist camps in Jaffna. Mr Jayakody also pointed out the need for the government to put forward the real position before the people.

Continuing Reportage on Clashes With Tamils

Jaffna Situation

BK201140 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] Terrorists have escalated their attacks on security camps and convoys in Jaffna in an attempt to stop the movements of the Armed Forces on public roads and to confine the troops to their camps. Yesterday, the security forces came under heavy terrorist fire when they attempted to leave the Jaffna Fort camp on a routine patrol. The troops returned fire, but six security personnel sustained injuries. One of them later succumbed to his injury. The terrorists also suffered heavy casualties, but their number was not known.

Security forces told LANKA PUWATH that air cover had been provided to the troops. Terrorists also attacked a temporary Army camp set up at the Vasavillan school and this school had been earlier used by the terrorists as a base, but it was subsequently captured by the security forces after a fierce gun battle. All attempts by the terrorists to attack the camp yesterday were repulsed with heavy casualties to the terrorists.

On Sunday, the terrorists had tried once again to infiltrate the Palaly Airport but failed to do so when their attack was repulsed. The Thondomanar and Point Pedro camps have also come under terrorist attacks but security forces say that most of mortars used had fallen short of the targets.

Fourteen policemen were seriously injured when the vehicle they were travelling ran into a landmine, which was set off by terrorists at Kalkudah yesterday. Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that two police vehicles had gone to the Kalkudah railway station to pick up police officers who were returning after (?end) of leave. On their way back to the police station, one of the vehicles ran into a landmine. The 14 injured policemen are now receiving emergency medical treatment. Seven of them have been brought to the Colombo General Hospital, while the other seven are warded at the Polonnaruwa Hospital.

Delhi: Jaffna Offensive 'Abandoned'

BK201308 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 20 May 86

[Excerpt] A major offensive by the Sri Lankan security forces to regain control of the northern Jaffna Peninsula has been abandoned. This was disclosed by a spokesman of the Sri Lankan Defense Ministry. The security forces came under heavy fire

from the Tamil militants as they were advancing on the Jaffna Peninsula.

The spokesman said that troops in Jaffna and the Elephant Pass have now returned to their bases. The security forces received a serious blow when [words indistinct] failed to fight its way at the peninsula's trunk from Elephant Pass to Jaffna city.

The other major setback was their failure to break through in two directions from the main military base in Jaffna and join the troops advancing on the town from the coast and islands around it. The militants used rockets, mortars, machineguns and land mines to repulse the attack. According to UNI [United News of India] one soldier was killed and six injured in today's offensive.

Minister Denies Offensive Unsuccessful

BK201622 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] The Sri Lankan national security minister has said that the Sri Lankan Government has achieved the twin objectives of securing the major military bases in Jaffna Peninsula and of clearing the routes to the main security forces camp.

Mr Athulathmudali told our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, that the government has not abandoned its security operations nor has it called a halt because of setback suffered by its troops. In his speech in parliament during the debate on the extension of emergency in Sri Lanka, Mr Athulathmudali said that the operation, which ended today, achieved its objective.

Earlier, a spokesman of the Joint Operation Command had suggested to newsmen that the security forces column moving northward along the Elephant Pass had to abandon its mission because of attacks by militants. The security forces have also reportedly withdrawn from their temporary camp into the main camp at Palaly. Our correspondent adds that this pullin out of security forces suggest that they will again be confined to their camps in the peninsula despite claims to the contrary by the government.

Meanwhile, information reaching Colombo from Jaffna said six bombs were dropped over Jaffna town this morning from Air Force planes. Two planes and two helicopters circled the town for a few minutes this morning before one of them discharged the bombs. Although several people have been injured, the exact casualty figures are not yet known.

There was helicopter strafing in Velvettiturai town this morning. Four naval gunboats shelled the town. Three civilians were shot dead this morning in Jaffna town by security forces who had set up a temporary camp at the police headquarters.

The Indian High Commissioner in Colombo, Mr J.N. Dixit, today called on President Jayewardene and impressed on him the grave concern in India following the latest development in Jaffna peninsula, where the Sri Lankan Armed Froces have mounted a major military operation.

9 Sinhalese Villagers Killed

BK210328 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] The situation in the Jaffna Peninsula was quiet last night after the Sri Lankan Government announced that the military operations in the area had been ended. No serious military action has been reported from any other front since yesterday evening. However, sporadic gunfire was heard in some of the areas and naval shelling is reported to have continued at Velvettiturai.

In the Trincomalee district, nine Sinhalese villagers, including five women, are reported to have been killed by the militants at Morawewa. They were kidnapped last Sunday and their bodies were found yesterday.

Three special task force men are reported to have been killed when the militants attacked their camp last night at a place about 45 km west of Batticaloa town. Seven are reported to be injured.

Delhi: 'Fierce Violence' in Jaffna

BK210910 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] Fierce violence engulfed Jaffna peninsula this morning as Air Force planes bombed and helicopters strafed the Velvettiturai. About 30 bombs were dropped in 40 minutes from 0615 this morning. This was followed by helicopter strafing and naval shelling. Panic-stricken people and women with babies in arms ran to interior areas as the air attacks continued.

In the other sector of Kayts, heavy fighting raged between security forces and militants. The area is completely cut off and civilians injured in cross-firing are bleeding to death because they cannot be evacuated to hospitals. Naval shelling is continuing in Karainagar. A column of security forces again started their movement from Elephant Pass. Meanwhile in Jaffna town, panic-stricken shopkeepers started removing their merchandise from shops.

Minister Denies 'Indiscriminate Bombing'

BK211113 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali denied allegations by a foreign government that there had been indiscriminate bombing in Jaffna peninsula. He also categorically denied that the Jaffna hospital was destroyed.

Mr Athulathmudali told the house that there had been a turnaround of troops and that the security forces pursued their objectives to secure all bases. Kayts had been stormed and occupied because it was necessary for the defense of the Karainagar base. But the statement that the Sri Lankan Government was opting for a military solution was ridiculous. The minister said that in the past few days the Liberation Tigers have been made to realize that they cannot run Jaffna.

Tamil Broadcasting Workers Asked To Remain at Home

BK170721 Hong Kong AFP in English 0715 GMT 17 May 86

[Text] Colombo, May 17 (AFP) — Nearly 200 Tamil employees of Sri Lanka's state-owned broadcasting network have been asked to stay away from work in bid to prevent bomb attacks by militant Tamil separatists, official sources said Saturday.

The chairman of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation, Livy Wijemanne, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that 163 Tamil employees had been given special leave. The action was taken as a security precaution and was in the interests of the Tamil employees themselves, Mr. Wijemanne said, adding that they were not charged with anything. "It is possible that the terrorists might force them to do certain acts under threat," Mr. Wijemanne said. "This is to prevent them from being caught up in such a situation."

About 25 Tamil producers, reporters and other employees of the state-owned television station, Rupavahini, have also been instructed by the Ministry of State not to show up for work, official sources said. Rupavahini Chairman M.J. Perera confirmed that Tamil employees had been granted special leave, but he refused to disclose details. Informed sources said it was likely that Tamil workers in other "sensitive" institutions and departments of the government would be asked to stay home for their "own protection."

On Thursday, National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali announced a new security plan for public institutions and other key places where Tamil militants campaigning for an independent state were feared likely to strike.

The government decided to tighten security after Tamil militants blew up an Air Lanka jetliner at Colombo's International Airport two weeks ago. Four days later a central telecommunications complex in the capital was struck by a bomb. More than 30 people died and nearly 150 were injured in the two bombings. Most of those killed in the Air Lanka blast were foreign holiday makers on their way to the Maldive Islands. "Make no mistake. The terrorists are waiting to strike again," Mr. Athulathudali warned on Thursday, urging the public to be on its guard.

Various sources have said that some of the militant Tamil groups are determined to sabotage current efforts at finding a political solution to the Tamil question with the help of Indian mediation. Mr. Athulathmudali said in a television interview last week that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were trying to gain supremacy over rival groups and were bent on a military victory.

Further Details

BK181136 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 May 86

[Text] Over 160 Tamil employees of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation [SLBC] will be sent on special leave this week for security reasons. Letters granting the special leave until further notice will be sent to them this week, the chairman of the SLBC, Livy Wijemanne, informed yesterday. Already, the Rupavahini [television] Corporation has granted special leave to nearly 25 Tamil employees attached to state television, also for security reasons. These employees from all divisions of the television network were sent on leave 4 days ago.

It is understood that Tamil employees and Indian passport holders attached to Air Lanka office in Katunayake have also been asked to stay away from work. The Tamil employees from these institutions, considered sensitive places, are being asked to stay away from work on the instructions of the Ministry of State.

Foreign Ministry Condemns South African Attacks

LD201228 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] Following South Africa's attack on Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Zambia, the Foreign Ministery of the Islamic Republic of Iran issued a statement saying: The racist regime of South Africa, which cannot stand up to criticism and popular movements, which are increasing daily in that country, has attacked the capitals of Botswana, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, claiming that its aim was to crush the so-called terrorist camps of the African National Congress.

The recent aggression by the racist regime of Pretoria against three southern African countries, coordinated with and supported by U.S. imperialism, took place while the world still remembered America's bloody aggression against innocent Libyan people and is at present witness to overtures by America and the regime occupying Palestine to commit aggression against Syria.

The statement stresses: All these savage actions are carried out with the pretext of the fight against terrorism, to silence the liberating voice of every movement and crush the resistance of the world's nation against full manifestations of oppression and arrogance in the world, that is, the United States, Israel, and South Africa.

While condemning this overt act of aggression against other independent countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran calls on all progressive and peace-seeking countries and organizations that support human rights and seek justice to condemn this act and confront such crimes in a practical and decisive manner by taking coordinated action against such plots.

The Islamic Republic of Iran once again declares its support for the struggles of the Frontline States and liberation movements in South Africa and the struggles of the oppressed people of South Africa, until the overthrow and complete annihilation of the racist regime of Pretoria as a dark spot and a shameful stain on humanity.

Velayati Message to Zimbabwe

LD201402 Tehran IRNA in English 1348 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 20 IRNA — Foreign Affairs Minister of Iran 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Tuesday sent a message to his counterpart in Zimbabwe, Witness Mangwende, to condemn the South African attack on residential areas of Harare. In his message Velayati said bombardment of Harare, which is to host the nonaligned summit meet soon, is an aggression against all nonaligned member states. Racist regime of Pretoria Monday raided civilian areas in three neighboring territories of Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana killing at least three, wounding others and destroying several houses. Iran's foreign minister also announced Iranian readiness to stand up against such aggressive moves.

Meanwhile, Iran's Foreign Ministry issued a statement condemning the South African raid on Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia. The statement said the "brutal aggression took place under the vain pretext of fight against terrorism, while it in fact aimed at silencing the call for freedom." The "Islamic Republic of Iran condemns the open aggression to these independent countries" said the statement, and "calls on progressive countries and human rights organizations to face decisively these conspiracies."

The Islamic Republic supports the anti-apartheid struggles in South Africa and has close relations with several South African groups. Combatants from the Pan-African Congress (PAC) toured Tehran last month. Iran's President Khamene'i paid a one-week visit to African countries of Zimbabwe, Angola, Tanzania, Mozambique in January for improving bilateral relations.

KUNA: Iran Reducing Oil Supplies to Syria

LD201113 Kuwait KUNA in English 1016 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] Nicosia, May 20 (KUNA) — Iran has reduced substantially its oil delivery to Syria as the latter has failed to pay some 1.5 billion U.S. dollars ('of) oil purchases from Iran, according to the latest issue of the *MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY (MEES)*. The Cyprus-based *MEES* said that Syria has turned to the spot market, purchasing 48,000 barrels of light crude daily. Syria has also asked Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for oil supply as a result of Iran's cut-back, it said.

The report says that when a pipeline linking its own oil field of Tayyim is completed, Syria will have a domestic supply of 50,000 barrels a day instead of 15,000 barrels now being trucked from the remote oil field. According to an agreement signed in April 1983, Iran supplied Syria with six million tons of the crude oil annually (120,000 barrels a days, at 2.5 dollars-a-barrel below the prevailing official price. Syria should pay partly in cash and partly in its exports. Iran also offered Syria one million tons annually free of charge.

MEES did not give the exact amount of oil supplies cut by Iran. *MEES* disclosed that a Syrian oil delegation is expected to visit Tehran soon to discuss the renewal of the oil agreement which is to expire this month. Rapprochement between Syria and Jordan and unconfirmed reports about Syria's slight change in its position toward the Iran-Iraq war, may also contribute to Iran's decision to cut back its oil supplies to Syria, *MEES* noted.

Khamene'i Receives Outgoing Cuban Ambassador

LD201152 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 20, IRNA — The Cuban ambassador to Tehran, Luis Marisy Figueredo, upon termination of his service bid farewell to President 'Ali Khamene'i here Tuesday. The Cuban diplomat, expressing satisfaction of his country over mutual relations which he described as good, thanked efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran in promoting these ties.

President Khamene'i praised the vigorous anti-imperialist campaign of Cuba. He further added that in post-revolutionary period the Iranian people have been engaged in a struggle against counterrevolution led by world oppressors. However, he added,

the Iranian people have come out victoriously and are ready to continue their revolutionary resistance by dealing more shattering blows on the oppressors. Referring to the recent U.S. move in portraying a number of progressive and revolutionary countries as terrorists, he said such efforts were useless and is a move to mar world public opinion. Therefore, he stressed, progressive countries should become further united. President Khamene'i announced readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran for any cooperation to counter increasing U.S. aggression.

Nicaraguan Envoy, Shafe'i Discuss Cooperation

LD202321 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 20, IRNA — Nicaragua's ambassador to Tehran, Gonzalo Murillo, met here Tuesday with Minister of Industries Gholam Reza Shafe'i and conferred with him on industrial and economic cooperation between the two countries. Shafe'i said in the meeting that the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to import sugar and meat products from Nicaragua. He added that there are favourable grounds for cooperation between Iran and Nicaragua in the fields of handicrafts, pharmaceutics, foodstuff, energy, cement production and mineral exploitation.

The Nicaraguan ambassador said that both Iran and Nicaragua are victims of U.S. plots and of its interference. He thanked the Iranian minister for Iran's backing for his country's struggles. Murillo also pointed out that the Islamic Republic of Iran can help Nicaragua develop its textile and pharmaceutics industries so that his country could resist the economic boycott imposed by the U.S. and European Common Market.

Rahmani Leads Delegation Arriving in Tripoli

LD200653 Tehran IRNA in English 0634 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] Tripoli, May 20, IRNA — The head of the Basij unit of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahmani, arrived here Monday night heading a political-military delegation and was welcomed by the Libyan ground forces commander, Colonel (Faraj) and other officials. Colonel Faraj welcoming the Iranian delegation said that the trip of the Iranian officials was a sign of cordial and close ties between the two countries. Praising the decisive stance of the Islamic Revolution of Iran vis-a-vis international arrogance, Colonel Faraj reiterated support of Libya for Iran in the Iraqi-imposed war.

Speaking to reporters, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahmani said that the trip was aimed at renewing support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for Libya in the light of the U.S. aggressions. He told reporters that he was carrying a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i of Iran for the Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahmani also talked about the activities and achievements of the Basij unit in safeguarding the revolution and in fighting the Iraqi enemy. He hoped that the experiences of both countries in this respect would further strengthen them in their campaign against imperialism, the U.S. in particular. He described the recent U.S. attack on Libya as a setback and defeat for the U.S. administration and said that the attack further united the Muslims. He hoped that all Muslim and oppressed countries would form a united front in the near future to teach a proper lesson to the U.S. It has now become clear that the U.S. is vulnerable, he told the reporters.

Views Wreckage of U.S. Plane

LD202032 Tehran IRNA in English 1722 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] Tripoli, May 20, IRNA — Head of Basij (Mobilization) Unit of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahmani,currently heading a delegation here, Tuesday visited areas bombed in the U.S. April 15 air raid on Tripoli. Hoj. Rahmani and his accompanying delegation also inspected the wreckage of the U.S. fighter bombers downed by Libyan anti-aircraft fire in the air attack. Later, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahmani said, at a cemetery where martyrs of the U.S. April 15 bombing are buried, that Islamic nations would take revenge of martyrs from the global arrogance.

Deputy Prime Minister Departs for Paris Visit

LD201324 Tehran IRNA in English 1244 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 20, IRNA — Iran's deputy prime minister 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri departed for France Tuesday [20 May] for an official visit and talks on relations between the two countries. During the visit Mo'ayeri is scheduled to meet President Francois Mitterrand, Prime Minister Jacques Chirac and Foreign Minister Jean Bernard Raimond. Mo'ayeri, the former charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Paris, is being accompanied by a delegation.

Last month President Mitterrand sent a message to his Iranian counterpart President 'Ali Khamene'i calling for the normalization of relations between the two countries. The message was carried by visiting French Deputy Foreign Minister Andre Ross who also announced that the new French Government was interested in normalizing its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. At the time Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi said Iran was awaiting a practical measure by the French Government for the normalization of relations. French repayment of a one-billion dollar debt, explicit support for Iraqi regime and Iranian terrorist groups residing in Paris are among major problems in relations between the two countries.

Delegation Arrives

LD202133 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] Paris, May 20, IRNA — Iran's deputy prime minister 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, heading a delegation, arrived here for a three-day official visit Tuesday afternoon, the first official visit to Paris by a high ranking Iranian official since the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution of Iran. Mo'ayeri's visit is in response to visits by two French delegations to Tehran for resolving present problems in Tehran-Paris relations. The deputy prime minister is to hold talks with French President Francois Mitterrand, Prime Minister Jacques Chirac and foreign minister Jean Bernard Raimond on issues blocking normalization of relations between Tehran and Paris.

Talks Begin
LD210532 Tehran IRNA in English 0520 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] Paris, May 21, IRNA — The Iranian deputy prime minister for political affairs, 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, currently here heading a delegation, started first round of talks with two French Foreign Ministry officials Tuesday afternoon. During the meeting issues of mutual interest and ways of normalizing bi-lateral relations were discussed. Mo'ayeri left Tehran for Paris Tuesday carrying messages from President 'Ali Khamene'i, Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi for their French counterparts.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has attached normalization of its relations with France to repayment of a one-billion-dollar loan Iran had granted to France. Other conditions include ceasing France's all-out support for the Baghdad regime in its war against Iran and also for the Iranian fugitive counterrevolutionaries living in France.

Soviet Policy on DRA Considered, Evaluated
GF201457 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 19 May 86

[From "A Glance at Developments in the World" program]

[Excerpts] Although news agencies have been covering the the change in the Marxist regime in Afghanistan, reports say that new military clashes have already begun in that country.

Meanwhile, it has been reported that the seventh round of the Geneva talks is continuing. The United Nations has disclosed that the very slow-paced talks between the foreign ministers of Afghanistan and Pakistan will continue next week as well. On the other hand, rumors indicate that the change effected in the regime in Afghanistan has raised a number of doubts and that this state of affairs is being analyzed by observers. An interesting point in this regard is that CPSU circles talked about the unsatisfactory activities of Babrak Karmal even before a change was considered in the Afghan regime. This is indicative of the fact that any change considered in Afghanistan can always be felt from the position Moscow takes.

Regardless of all this and despite the fact that the Soviet Union attaches importance to the question of propaganda over Afghanistan, Mikhail Gorbachev's description of the Red Army's move into Afghanistan as a mistake and the effort he has been making to resolve the question of Afghanistan is a matter that cannot be ignored. It seems the Soviet Union is now becoming more aware of the fact that it is confronted with economic and political pressures over its army's occupation of Afghanistan. Regardless of this, the Soviet Union cannot be expected to drop the condition that the Afghan regime should be composed of a 100 percent allied cadre.

The realization of Babrak Karmal's plan for consolidating democracy and the foundations of the 27 April revolution in Afghanistan required the presence of the Russians [as heard] in Afghanistan for a long time. Not agreeing to this difficult state of affairs, the Russians [as heard] demanded Babrak Karmal's removal. The displeasure the Kremlin officials expressed over the failure of Babrak Karmal's government displayed the Karmal regime's weakness in governing Afghanistan. Parallel to the weakness observed in the Afghan army, the spreading to the streets of disputes among the groups loyal to the Afghanistan regime was one of the problems creating difficulties for the Soviet Union. It has been reported that the internal friction and clashes are caused more by the feelings of nationalism. Regardless of all this and irrespective of the fact that the Soviet Union has failed to resolve such problems even prior to the 27 April coup, Moscow still maintains its position.

Libyans' Trial in Turkey Reported, Reviewed
GF201353 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 19 May 86

[From "A Glance at Developments in the World" program]

[Text] The two Libyans who were tried by a security court in Turkey last Tuesday on charges of attempting to plant a bomb in the American Officers' Club in Ankara have said that while in detention they were taken blindfolded to an American center and were tortured there by individuals who spoke English. In a disclosure in the court, the defense lawyer said his clients were subjected to torture, and the nails of one of them had been pulled out. The court, however, declined the defense lawyer's appeal for an investigation in that regard. The two Libyans, on the other hand, said that the disclosures they made during their interrogation had been given under pressure of the Turkish and U.S. officials. They said they did not accept them and that they were all unfounded.

Saudi Arabia Reportedly Arrests Over 200 Muslims
GF200920 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] Muslim Saudi university students who live abroad have reported that over 200 Muslim Saudi strugglers are currently under arrest in a Saudi prison for undertaking Islamic activities. These students add that among the arrested are a number of Muslim women. These students stressed that the Saudi Muslims repeatedly affirmed their solidarity with the arrested Saudi Muslim strugglers by writing slogans denouncing the ruling Al Sa'ud family.

Deputy on Saudi, Kuwait Silence on U.S. 'Plots'
LD201035 Tehran IRNA in English 1018 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 20, IRNA — The Majlis in its open session here Tuesday resumed debate on the bill concerning formation and organization of Islamic councils.

Amad 'Azizi, the deputy from Qazvin, Zanjan Province, addressing the Majlis said the U.S. air attack on Libya was in fact a test to launch attacks on the Islamic Republic of Iran. He also deplored silence of reactionary Arab leaders, headed by Saudi and Kuwaiti leaders, towards plots hatched by world imperialism. This silence, he told the Majlis, is a sign of collabo-

ration of these governments with imperialism. Therefore, it is necessary to review the nature of the relations of the Islamic Republic of Iran with these Arab countries, 'Azizi added. He also warned against unpleasant effects of unnecessary political ties with countries attached to world imperialism. Further in his speech, he called for continuation of the Iraqi-imposed war until final victory.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraqi Troops Retreat in Faqqeh

LD201620 Tehran IRNA in English 1559 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., May 20, IRNA — Muslim combatants of Iran forced Iraqi forces to retreat eight kilometers in a unique assault on the heart of enemy positions in Faqqeh. In the operations which lasted till Monday night, Iranian Muslim combatants killed or wounded numerous Iraqi soldiers while demolishing some tanks and personnel carriers of the enemy. Two Iraqi command headquarters were subjected to the direct fire of the Muslim fighters of Iran in Faqqeh, as a result of which supply efforts of the enemy were disrupted.

Communique No 2,476

LD201639 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 20, IRNA — Iranian fighter bombers pounded concentration centers of Iraqi troops in Mehran at 01:50, 02:00, 09:25 and 09:33 hours GMT Tuesday inflicting substantial casualties and losses on them, and returned to their bases safely, said a communique here Tuesday.

The Joint Staff Communique number 2476 said that at least 300 Iraqi soldiers were killed, and 15 vehicles some with munitions aboard were destroyed in the Iranian counter-attacks in Mehran Monday and Tuesday. Iranian Muslim combatants also destroyed five Iraqi tanks and captured seven of their crewmembers, it added. The military communique said that artillery fire of Iranian gendarmerie forces on Iraqi positions in Bostan killed or wounded 30 Iraqi soldiers and demolished several of their vehicles and tanks.

Muslim forces of Iran exchanged artillery fire with Iraqi troops in the northwestern fronts Monday, destroying several vehicles, some tanks, two munitions dumps and several bunkers. Meanwhile in the western fronts sporadic artillery duels continued Monday raging somewhat more heavily in Mehran and Sumar, according to the communique. In Abadan of Iran's Khuzestan Province Monday Iraqi artillery fire damaged 28 houses and shops.

2 Iraqi Helicopters Downed

LD201905 Tehran IRNA in English 1743 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] Tehran May 20, IRNA — Two Iraqi helicopters were shot down by heavy anti-aircraft fire of Iranian Muslim combatants in the Iranian border city of Mehran Tuesday. Muslim forces of Iran continued their fight with Iraqi troops Tuesday crippling as much as 70 to 100 per cent of six Iraqi battalions including two commando ones.

2 Helicopters Downed Over Hajj 'Umran

LD211109 Tehran IRNA in English 1013 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 21, IRNA — The downing of two more Iraqi helicopters over Hajj 'Umran region, northeast Iraq opposite Iran's W. Azarbayjan city of Piranshahr, Wednesday morning, brought to 32 the number of Iraqi helicopters downed in the area.

A statement released by Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters said that Hajj 'Umran is under full control of the Islamic forces of Iran and the Iraqi positions were within the range of their artillery fire. The helicopters were downed at 09:03 local time over Harna Valley deep inside Iraqi positions, the statement added.

1200 Casualties in Hajj 'Umran

LD201722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] The Khatam ol-Anbiya', the center of combined operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, reports that in continuation of their operations in Hajj 'Umran region, the armies of Islam inflicted heavy casualties and losses of equipment on the aggressive enemy. Over the past 2 days and last night [as heard], the armies of Islam also succeeded, in the course of their penetration offensives in the Hajj 'Umran region, in attacking deep inside the Saddamist forces' positions. They also succeeded in destroying several battalions of the Zionist enemy and killing or wounding more than 1,200 of his forces.

In addition, the blasphemy-fighting forces of monotheism succeeded in destroying 23 tanks and personnel carriers, dozens of vehicles and four large enemy ammunition dumps on the other side of the Hajj 'Umran operational theater. [as heard] A column of Iraqi Army vehicles and armor in the Kolaleh and Chuman-Mostafa axis was brought under crushing fire and smashed.

In the course of the clashes over the past 2 days, the defensive fire of the heroes of the Islamic Revolution brought down another enemy helicopter gunship in the Hajj 'Umran operational theater. This brings the total number of aggressive enemy helicopters shot down over the past few days of clashes in Hajj 'Umran region to 30. After their penetration offensives, the forces of Islam all returned safely to their bases. They are now guarding and protecting their firm positions as well as controlling every enemy movement.

'Hundreds' Killed in 'Val-Fajr-8'

LD201754 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] The Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters reports that the combatants of Islam stationed in the "Val-Fajr-8" operational area opened intense fire on all command bases, artillery positions,

armored equipment, and communication lines situated north of Al-Faw and inflicted heavy casualties on the Zionist enemy.

Hundreds of enemy soldiers were killed and a large quantity of equipment, slit trenches, nine large ammunition depots, dozens of tanks and personnel carriers, three bulldozers, four trucks and a number of vehicles belonging to the Zionist regime of Iraq's Army were set on fire and destroyed. The smoke from enemy positions and equipment hung over the operational area for hours.

Mehran Air Raid 21 May

GF210447 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in its communique announced a few minutes ago that at 0510 [0120 GMT] and 0530 [0200 GMT] this morning, the Air Force pilots of the Islamic Republic of Iran attacked enemy units, munitions storage areas, and concentration centers of the Zionist enemy in the Mehran operational sector with fighter bombers. They inflicted heavy casualties on the Iraqi aggressors and returned safely to their bases.

Fighter-Bombers Attack

LD210447 Tehran IRNA in English 0440 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 21, IRNA — Iranian fighter-bombers severely hit Iraqi group concentration positions and armoured vehicles park in Mehran, west of Iran on Iran-Iraq border, twice early Wednesday morning. A Joint Staff communique released here said that the attacks were carried out at 05:03 local time (01:33 GMT) and 05:10 (01:40 GMT) Wednesday morning. The fighter-bombers after inflicting heavy losses and damages to the Iraqi forces returned safely to their bases, the communique added.